



Chemonics International

USAID RAISE IQC No. PCE-I-00-99-00003-00, Task Order 808

Madagascar ReCAP Rural Roads Cyclone Rehabilitation Project

First Quarterly Report

January 16, 2001 to March 31, 2001

Submitted March 9, 2001

Introduction

USAID/Madagascar and Chemonics International signed the Madagascar Roads RAISE IQC Task Order on January 16, 2001. The objectives and the results obtained to date are shown below:

Results	Target	Completed to Date	Percent Completed
RIP 4 rehabilitated	93 km.	0	0
Road User Associations created along the Rip 4	20	0	0
Tertiary Roads Rehabilitated	140 km.	0	0
Road User Associations Created along the Tertiary Roads	30	0	0
Makara Port Warehouse Roof Repaired and Wharf Stabilized	2	0	0

Activities during the Quarter

H Schar, the Start-Up Coordinator, traveled to Madagascar on January 22, less than one week after the signature of the task order, to serve as acting COP until the arrival of Ralph Jean. Mr. Schar made initial contacts with potential partners at the various ministries of the government (GRM), met with USAID technical and contracting officers, and coordinated all start-up activities. Mr. Schar is a former Regional Director and COP of the CAP project in Madagascar (1994-1999). He was also instrumental in negotiating the sub-contract with the local NGO – Lalana.

One week later, Karen Jung, a Chemonics Home Office Project Administrator, traveled to Madagascar in order to start up administrative activities. Ms. Jung worked with Mr. Schar, the administrative start-up coordinator Jean-Luc Aldorf, and the local accountant to set-up the office as quickly as possible, initiate procurement actions and obtain the requisite approvals. Specific tasks included the identification of office space, purchasing furniture, vehicles, hiring local staff, setting up utilities and internet service, opening the project bank account and liaising with USAID staff.

The lease on the project office space was signed on February 23 for a period ending December 15, 2002. Minor repairs will be undertaken to improve the space and the office will be occupied by ReCap during the week of March 12. Before moving into the new project office space, ReCap staff were given access to the LDI offices in Antananarivo.

The sub-contract with Lalana is a key component of this Task Order. It was signed on February 13 to provide Chemonics with the engineering expertise and support in order to create Road User Associations (AUPs). Following the signature of the sub-contract, Lalana started working on the planning process. Their staff also took field trips to the area of the RIP 4 to start to identify potential AUPs, commence the socio-economic studies of the area, and to start technical studies during the second week of March.

The Chief of Party arrived in country on Monday, February 26 after spending the previous week at the Chemonics Washington office working with Ms. Sally Cameron and being briefed by H. Schar on project progress. Mr. Jean arrived in Washington only two days after leaving Haiti where he worked as the Administrator of the Hurricane Georges Reconstruction Program (HGRP) for the Pan American Development Program (HGRP/PADF). He hopes to use his experience managing emergency hurricane/cyclone funding to the benefit of this program.

His first week was spent meeting with USAID staff, government partners, LDI colleagues and interviewing local staff. Two meetings were held with the CTO, David Soroko, reviewing contract requirements and the approval process. Additional meetings will be held with USAID staff the week of March 12 on the road selection process, the composition of Regional Infrastructure Committee (RIC) and other outstanding technical and administrative issues. Chemonics hopes to hold bi-weekly meetings with USAID in order to review project progress and to resolve any outstanding problems or issues.

During his second week in country, Mr. Jean, Ms. Cameron and Ms. Vero Razafintsalama traveled to visit LDI project sites and potential road projects in the Moramonga and Fenerive-Est regions. One of the potential projects would be the building of bridge linking a secondary road to the Zahamena National Park's only road entrance in the Fenerive-Est region. The road leading from the bridge also leads to a priority USAID biodiversity zone that is receiving technical assistance by LDI. The region is a high potential agricultural zone that produces clove, vanilla and other export crops that cannot get to market due to the damaged bridge.

On Friday, March 9, a team-building workshop was held at the LDI offices with the staff the ReCap project. The new Chemonics staff met with Lalana staff to discuss the strategic challenges facing the project, the selection criteria and the steps that will need to be taken during the next few months to achieve the objectives of the program.

On March 19, Ousmane N'Diaye, the Chemonics Field Office Financial Specialist, will be traveling to Madagascar to train Recap Administrative staff on the Quickbooks accounting software, set up the accounting system, and will verify the entry of the first month's transactions.

Tony Carvalho, the Roads-Bridge Engineer, will be arriving in Madagascar on March 19 in order to work with Lalana on the study and design of the RIP 4, suggest other roads

that may be selected, and will approve key aspects of tender documents for the RIP 4 engineering work.

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The following week, Ken Rikard, the Value Engineer, will propose cost savings on the RIP 4 and any other road projects that may be identified before his departure.